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**NCEA Level 3 Chinese (Mandarin) Revised Vocabulary List 2025**

**Editable Word doc**

Updated NCEA Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Vocabulary Lists for Asian and European languages were published on the NCEA Education website in December 2024.

Below is the revised Level 3 Chinese (Mandarin) Vocabulary List that should be used with students in 2025 (and thereafter).

The Vocabulary List supports teaching and learning and helps teachers understand the language appropriate at Curriculum Level 8. Language drawn from this Vocabulary List is used to create external assessments and may be used to support teachers when preparing students for internal assessments.

The vocabulary lists belong to the Ministry of Education. The list in this document has been **formatted by NZALT** to make it easier for teachers to print and photocopy for students. NZALT has provided two versions:

1. A PDF that can be printed and photocopied for students.
2. A Word document for teachers who would like to do further formatting.

This version of the vocabulary list is arranged **alphabetically (Chinese to English)**.

Other configurations of this list (eg. English to Chinese; by category) can be found online [here](https://ncea.education.govt.nz/learning-languages/mandarin?view=teaching).

Alternatively, you can navigate to the revised vocabulary lists by following this pathway:   
ncea.education.govt.nz > New Zealand Curriculum > Learning Languages: Chinese > Teaching

Teachers are advised to read the Introduction to the vocabulary lists (online, as above), as these contain useful context for teaching and learning, and for internal and external assessments (including the notes below).

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| At Level 3, candidates may also be expected to make informed guesses about unfamiliar words in external assessment texts using context and prior knowledge. |
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| **Notes to teachers** |
| In addition to the listed vocabulary, students are also expected to be able to recognise: |
| ● items from relevant L1 and L2 Chinese (Mandarin) Vocabulary Lists |
| ● rules and patterns of word formation |
| ● where a compound word can be easily constructed using basic characters at previous levels |
| ● relevant classifiers for nouns covered in the list |
| ● obvious loan words such as 咖啡 (kāfēi), 巧克力 (qiǎokèlì). |

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|  | **Pinyin** | **Chinese** | **English** | **Vocabulary Class** |
| **A** | ài qíng | 爱情 | romantic love | noun |
| **B** | bào gào | 报告 | to report, report | verb, noun |
| bǎo hù | 保护 | to protect | verb |
| bào míng | 报名 | to sign up | verb |
| bì xū | 必须 | must, have to | modal verb |
| biàn huà | 变化 | change | noun |
| bù rú | 不如 | not as good | verb |
| bù tài | 不太 | not quite | chunk |
| **C** | chá | 查 | to search | verb |
| chāo guò | 超过 | to surpass | verb |
| chú le | 除了 | except, besides | preposition |
| **D** | dài biǎo | 代表 | to represent, representation | verb, noun |
| dì tú | 地图 | map | noun |
| duō me | 多么 | how (used in exclamations) | adverb |
| **F** | fǎn duì | 反对 | to oppose | verb |
| fāng fǎ | 方法 | method | noun |
| fàng xīn | 放心 | to feel relieved | verb |
| fù qīn | 父亲 | father | noun |
| fù jìn | 附近 | nearby | noun |
| **G** | gǎn jué | 感觉 | to feel, feeling | verb, noun |
| gǎn xiè | 感谢 | to thank | verb |
| gēn běn | 根本 | fundamental, absolutely, base | adjective, adverb, noun |
| gōng mín | 公民 | citizen | noun |
| guān zhù | 关注 | to follow with interest | verb |
| **H** | hài pà | 害怕 | to be afraid | verb |
| hé píng | 和平 | peaceful, peace | adjective, noun |
| hé shì | 合适 | appropriate | adjective |
| hòu lái | 后来 | later, after that | adverb |
| huá rén | 华人 | overseas Chinese | noun |
| huán jìng | 环境 | environment | noun |
| huí shōu | 回收 | to recycle | verb |
| **J** | jì huà | 计划 | to plan, plan | verb, noun |
| jī huì | 机会 | chance | noun |
| jiǎn dān | 简单 | simple | adjective |
| jiāng lái | 将来 | future | noun |
| jiāo liú | 交流 | to exchange (information), exchange | verb, noun |
| jié guǒ | 结果 | result, as a result | noun, conjunction |
| jié shù | 结束 | to end | verb |
| jiě jué | 解决 | to solve | verb |
| jīng guò | 经过 | to pass by | verb |
| jīng yàn | 经验 | experience | noun |
| jiù | 旧 | old | adjective |
| jù shuō | 据说 | it is said | verb |
| **K** | kàn fǎ | 看法 | view | noun |
| kě pà | 可怕 | fearful | adjective |
| kōng jiān | 空间 | space | noun |
| **L** | lā jī | 垃圾 | rubbish | noun |
| lè guān | 乐观 | optimistic | adjective |
| lèi sì | 类似 | similar | adjective |
| lì yòng | 利用 | to make use of | verb |
| lǐ yóu | 理由 | reason | noun |
| liáo tiān | 聊天(儿) | to chat | verb |
| liú lì | 流利 | fluent | adjective |
| **M** | mǎn yì | 满意 | to be satisfied | verb |
| méi tǐ | 媒体 | media | noun |
| mèng xiǎng | 梦想 | to dream of, dream | verb, noun |
| miàn duì | 面对 | to face | verb |
| míng bái | 明白 | to understand | adjective, verb |
| mù dì | 目的 | purpose | noun |
| **N** | néng lì | 能力 | ability | noun |
| nián qīng | 年轻 | young | adjective |
| nǔ lì | 努力 | hard-working | adjective |
| **P** | pá | 爬 | to climb | verb |
| pái duì | 排队 | to line up | verb object |
| píng cháng | 平常 | usual, usual practice | adjective, noun |
| píng děng | 平等 | equal | adjective |
| **Q** | qí shí | 其实 | actually | adverb |
| qìng zhù | 庆祝 | to celebrate | verb |
| **R** | rè nào | 热闹 | lively, to liven up | adjective, verb |
| rèn zhēn | 认真 | serious, carefully | adjective |
| **S** | shāng pǐn | 商品 | commodity | noun |
| shè huì | 社会 | Social Studies (school subject) | noun |
| shè jì | 设计 | to design, scheme | verb, noun |
| shēng mìng | 生命 | life | noun |
| shēng yì | 生意 | business | noun |
| shēng yīn | 声音 | sound, voice | noun |
| shì jiè | 世界 | world | noun |
| shì shí | 事实 | fact | noun |
| shǐ yòng | 使用 | to use | verb |
| shōu rù | 收入 | to receive money, income | verb, noun |
| shuǐ píng | 水平 | level | noun |
| **T** | tài dù | 态度 | manner, attitude | noun |
| tǎo lùn | 讨论 | to discuss | verb |
| tí chū | 提出 | to put forward | verb + complement |
| tǐ yàn | 体验 | to learn from experience | verb |
| tián | 甜 | sweet | adjective |
| tiān kōng | 天空 | sky | noun |
| tiáo jiàn | 条件 | condition, requirement | noun |
| tiáo zhěng | 调整 | to adjust | verb |
| tū rán | 突然 | sudden | adjective |
| **W** | wán chéng | 完成 | to complete | verb |
| wán měi | 完美 | perfect | adjective |
| wàng jì | 忘记 | to forget | verb |
| wēi xiǎn | 危险 | dangerous, danger | adjective, noun |
| wēn nuǎn | 温暖 | warm, to warm | adjective, verb |
| wū rǎn | 污染 | pollution | noun |
| **X** | xí guàn | 习惯 | be used to, habit | verb, noun |
| xī wàng | 希望 | to hope, hope | verb, noun |
| xiàn dài | 现代 | modern times | noun |
| xiàn shí | 现实 | reality | noun |
| xiǎng dào | 想到 | to think of | verb |
| xiǎng fǎ | 想法 | idea | noun |
| xīn qíng | 心情 | mood | noun |
| xīn xiān | 新鲜 | fresh | adjective |
| xìng fú | 幸福 | happy, happiness | adjective, noun |
| xìng yùn | 幸运 | lucky, good luck | adjective, noun |
| xū yào | 需要 | to need, need | verb, noun |
| xuǎn zé | 选择 | to select, choice | verb, noun |
| **Y** | yī bān | 一般 | general | adjective |
| yí mín | 移民 | to immigrate, immigration | verb, noun |
| yì yì | 意义 | meaning | noun |
| yìn xiàng | 印象 | impression | noun |
| yù dào | 遇到 | to encounter | verb |
| yuē | 约 | to make an appointment | verb |
| **Z** | zhèng shì | 正式 | formal | adjective |
| zhī chí | 支持 | to support | verb |
| zhì yuàn zhě | 志愿者 | volunteer | noun |
| zhǐhǎo | 只好 | with no choice but | adverb |
| zhōngyú | 终于 | finally | adverb |
| zhù yì | 注意 | to notice | verb |
| zì rán | 自然 | natural, naturally, nature | adjective, adverb, noun |
| zì xìn | 自信 | self-confident, self-confidence | adjective, noun |
| zú gòu | 足够 | sufficient, to satisfy | adjective, verb |
| zuò pǐn | 作品 | works | noun |

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| **Idioms** | | |
| **Pinyin** | **Chinese** | **English** |
| qīn rú yì jiā，qíng tóng shǒu zú. | 亲如一家， 情同手足。 | As close as one family, as close as brothers/sisters. |
| rù xiāng suí sú. | 入乡随俗。 | When in Rome, do as the Romans do. |
| tiān xià yì jiā. | 天下一家。 | The world as one family (implying global unity and harmony). |
| tóng zhōu gòng jì. | 同舟共济。 | We are all in this together. |
| zūn lǎo ài yòu. | 尊老爱幼。 | Respect the elderly and care for the young. |